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SUPPLEMENT

1. The statement submitted by the Minister-Presidents of the Russian Zone to the Allied Control Council was formulated by the SED Minister-Presidents of Saxony, Thuringia, Mecklenburg, and Brandenburg. Hübener, LDP Minister-President of Saxony-Anhalt, states that it is his belief that the Minister-Presidents were acting upon orders from the Central Secretariat of the SED, which is controlled by Walter Ulbricht. At the time when the statement was written, Hübener claims that he was vacationing in Gabelbach (Thuringia). Minister-President Paul of Thuringia visited him there and acquainted him briefly and superficially with the proposed letter, omitting to mention any items which might be unacceptable to the LDP Minister-President. Whether or not Paul intentionally concealed these items, Hübener has been unable to determine. Hübener said that he was in agreement with the main points to be presented, as they were outlined by Paul; however, he expected that he would later receive a final draft of the statement for approval and signature. Such was not the case.
2. Hübener first read the statement as submitted to the Allied Control Council in the SED organ, Freiheit, in Halle/Saale. This newspaper carried a special comment on the fact that even Hübener had approved it. Hübener thereupon directed a written protest against the dishonorable conduct of his colleagues to Minister-President Steinhoff of Brandenburg, the actual author of the statement; copies were sent to the Minister-Presidents of Thuringia, Mecklenburg, and Saxony. During the morning of 2 August 1947 Hübener held a conference with members of the Halle press and released the following statement for publication:

"I read the wording of the statement of the Minister-Presidents of the Russian Zone of occupation to the Allied Control Council for the first time in yesterday's newspapers. I do not approve the statement in its entirety and would not have signed it without basic omissions and changes, had it been shown me before being sent."

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3. That noon all journalists who had been present at the conference with Hübener were ordered to report immediately to the SMA; because it was Saturday, however, only two of them could be reached. The SMA authorities explained that Hübener's statement must not be published, and made threats of harsh punishment if this order were disobeyed. In the evening an official of the state news office collected all copies of Hübener's statement from the various newspaper editors to whom they had been submitted.
4. On the same day Hübener was requested to visit General Shlyakhtenko, Commander-in-Chief of the state of Saxony-Anhalt. Although he seemed greatly disturbed by the whole incident, Shlyakhtenko treated Hübener with the utmost courtesy, apparently in an attempt to persuade him to withdraw his statement voluntarily. He told the Minister-President that he had behaved disloyally in failing to inform the SMA before releasing the statement to the press and that such a move might well have caused a rupture in their relations. He reminded Hübener of the help given him when he wanted to go to the Munich Conference. When Hübener suggested that Shlyakhtenko simply forbid the publication of the statement, the latter replied that he wished to adhere to democratic means and that Hübener should withdraw it of his own accord. He went on to say that Hübener's action was more offensive to the Soviet Union than to his fellow Minister-Presidents. Thereupon Hübener pointed out that the statement submitted by the Minister-Presidents to the Allied Control Council was surely offensive to the United States. Shlyakhtenko indicated that this was not his concern. At the end of the conference, which lasted two hours, it was agreed that the SMA would let the matter rest, retaining Hübener's statement, until Hübener had discussed it with LDP chairman Kütz in Berlin on 6 August 1947. Hübener stated later that he realized that he had not acted in good faith, but that unless he presented the Russians with a "fait accompli" the move would have been completely useless.
5. During a confidential conversation, Hübener gave those present to understand that he has no intention of retiring from office; the SMA has not requested his resignation, nor was it accepted when he offered it at the time of the Munich Conference. He believes that the SMA places some value upon his knowledge and intelligence as qualities rarely found among SED politicians. He personally wishes to continue to occupy his uncomfortable position for two reasons:
 - a. He is the only Minister-President of the Russian Zone not obliged to execute the orders of the Central Secretariat of the SED and is, therefore, always able to oppose Communistic policies, thus preventing the SED from advancing proposals of too radical a nature.
 - b. He fears that he would be succeeded by either a strong SED or a weak LDP man; under whose administration the last vestiges of a free democratic policy would vanish.
6. As possible successors he mentioned Carl Delius, formerly chairman of the LDP fraction in Saxony-Anhalt, and the LDP deputy, Gless, formerly chief mayor of Dessau, both of whom he believes lack the proper qualifications for the office. The Russians might support Studienrat Schwarze from Dessau, a member of the LDP, Vice-President of the Landtag and now Ministerial Director in the Ministry of Education and Religion of Saxony-Anhalt. As a likely SED candidate, the present Minister of the Interior of Saxony-Anhalt, Robert Siewert, was named. Hübener also thought it conceivable that a

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Minister-President might be selected from the SED central Secretariat or from the central administrations in Berlin.

6. When asked whether he was going to make a trip to the western zones, Hubener replied that the SMA would raise no objections; indeed, it would probably lend him assistance in obtaining the necessary papers. In any case, he would not consider a flight to the West, and if he should resign it would be done quite undramatically.

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